

Answer to Capt. Milnes letter to
Dr. Torrey, March 16. 1851 —

usages & forms; but a private citizen,
charged by a contract with the produc-
tion of a certain scientific work. — I men-
tion the fact (viz that I have not seen the
^{but it is important in another respect for}
~~above letter~~) ~~because~~ ^{discreetly} am willing to sup-
pose, (as Capt. Milnes ~~to strongly~~ asserts, to)

~~Dr. Torrey~~ not that Dr. T. has "misstated"

"misrepresented" the matter in question
^{each proceeding in his own honest understanding,}
~~to me, or~~ but that the parties ^{may} have in
a great degree misunderstood each other.

a thing by no means unlikely to happen in
to avoid which hereafter is my object in the present occasion.

My letter to Dr. Torrey of the 31st Jan^y was
solely based upon what he had written to

me, ^{it certainly gave me the impression} ~~which statements did appear to me~~
^{that there had been an unnecessary}

~~to indicate a needless~~ ^{have been} & vexatious interference
with details that should ^{have been} left, as I supposed

they were expressly arranged to be left, to the
botanists themselves to determine. In my

reply to Dr. Torrey I accordingly expressed my
sentiments in respect to it, ~~as represented to~~

me — Sentiments ~~as~~ ^{as} add, concurred in
by the highest ^{botanical} scientific authority in England
in such matters.

^{should add, in view of the unpleasantness in wh. the simple discharge}
~~of what I conceived to be my duty, has unexpectedly involved me, that~~
I am not desirous to exercise that general oversight

of the whole botanical publication which
I deemed myself
~~charged with~~ charged with, & to wh.,
if I mistake not, a plain reference will be
found in the written ^{engagement} ~~contract~~ I act under.
It is of no earthly object whatever to me, except
as it might tend, as my associates assured
me it would, to the ~~greater~~ perfection of the
work; & it is solely from my strong desire to
render ~~the work~~ ^{it} ~~in an~~ ^{creditably} ~~convenient~~ ⁱⁿ ~~form~~ ^{able} in the highest degree to the country, in
form & ⁱⁿ matter, that I have been ~~drawn~~ ^{drawn} into
this unpleasant discussion; which must
not be prolonged - At least I will take no

^{quite}
I am content to be alone responsible, as I must
be, in substance & in language, for that large portion
of the botanical report which is assigned to me to
execute, in respect to which, indeed, I have received
no instructions since our written contract was
made, & I trust I shall receive none at variance with it.

With respect to the declaration on the part
of Capt. Wilkes, of ^{his intention to arrest} ~~stopping~~ the ^{general} ~~social~~ bills
(in conformity with my request).
drawn upon the Committee, until I shall
give assurance of conforming to "views, & intensions"
^{of his} ~~instructions~~ to me either unknown,
or, as Capt. Wilkes intimates, misrepresented, & if
you will allow my remarks should
have only to say, that of the Library Committee
take the responsibility ~~on it~~ of arresting ⁱⁿ
~~this or in any other way~~ my portion of the
Botanical work, I shall naturally regret
the throwing away of so much labor & ex-
pense, & the ^{loss} failure of the opportunity of
contributing, in this ^{particular way} ~~manner~~ to the advance-
ment of American science. ^{as far as I am} ~~But~~ personally
concerned I shall have no reason to regret it.
~~as in the present aspect of affairs, it cannot~~
~~fail to prove a very great relief to me~~

I have the honour to be, with
great respect

Very truly Yours,
(signed) J. A. Gray

P.S. My address for the present is to the care
of Messrs. Brown Shipley & Co.
Liverpool



Gray, Asa. 1857. "Gray, Asa [fragment] [draft response to Mar. 16, 1857 letter from Wilkes to Torrey] 1857." *Charles Wilkes letters related to the United States Exploring Expedition* –.

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